Patents of traditional ISM

†1876. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than two and half thousand of patents have been registered, so far, throughout the world by stealing the formulae of traditional Indian Systems of Medicines;

(b) if so, the action, so far, taken by Government in the matter;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are going to seek the assistance of Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (T.K.D.L.) to get them cancelled; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Government is aware that patents have been granted on herbal formulations. Steps have been taken to seek revocation in some cases.

(c) and (d) The government is establishing Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) for Ayurvedic Siddha medicines which will help to prevent patenting of traditional knowledge already in public domain. Traditional Knowledge Digital Library information will be available in five U.N. languages which will help to prevent grant of patents about the existing knowledge. First phase of Traditional Knowledge Digital Library project for documenting of 35,000 Ayurvedic formulations is likely to be completed by December 2002.

Funds to Arunachal Pradesh under various National Health Programmes

1877. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds sanctioned, released and utilized by the State of Arunachal Pradesh under various National Health Programmes/ Schemes for the last three years and till date;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.